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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/757,226 | 01/14/2004 | Raymond J. Blasko | DP-310692 | 3255 |
| 22851 | 7590 | 06/30/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| DELPHI TECHNOLOGIES, INC. | | | CARPIO, IVAN HERNAN | |
| M/C 480-410-202 | | | ART UNIT | |
| PO BOX 5052 | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| TROY, MI 48007 | | | 2841 | |

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,226

Applicant(s)

BLASKO ET AL.

Examiner

Ivan H. Carpio

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1-14-04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1- 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asao (US Patent 6244877) and Donley (US Patent 4268713).

With respect to claim 1, Asao teaches an electrical assembly comprising, a lower housing (column 4, lines 41-42), a circuit board (figure 1, element 4 and column 6 lines 15 and 16) mounted in the lower housing an insulator block (figure 1, element 12) mounted on and in contact with an upper surface of the circuit board (figure 1, element 12), holding a plurality of conductive terminals (figure 1, elements 13a), so that the terminals have contact heads extending above a top surface of the insulator block and connector tails extending below a bottom surface of the insulator block and attached to the circuit board, upper housing (figure 1, element 2a) having an upstanding shroud (figure 1, element 5), means to attach the upper housing so that the contact heads of the terminals are disposed within the shroud (figure 1 and column 6 lines 15-17). Asao does not specifically teach a face seal above the insulator block so that the contact

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heads of the terminals extend through the face seal and the face seal is compressed between the top surface of the insulator block and a lower surface of the upper housing. Asao however does teach that the insulator block (Fig.1 element 12) is made of epoxy resin (column 5, lines 10-13) which is both an insulator and a sealant material as taught by Donley (column 1 lines 34-38) therefore the top acts as a seal. Furthermore formation of a part and the seal on it as two pieces is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to form the insulator block, taught by Asao, into two pieces where the top piece would be considered as a face seal because doing so would make the face seal easily replaceable without the need to change the entire insulator block. Also see, *In re Dulberg*, 289 F.2d 522, 523, 129 USPQ 348, 349 (CCPA 1961), in regards to making separable.

With respect to claim 2 and in accordance with claim 1, Asao teaches that the shroud has an outer periphery (Fig. 1, element 5) and the insulator block has an outer periphery (Fig.1, element 12) that is smaller than the outer periphery of the shroud.

With respect to claim 3 and in accordance with claim 2, Asao teaches that the smaller outer periphery of the insulator block provides a space beneath the upper housing for attaching electrical and/or electronic components to the circuit board adjacent the insulator block (Fig.1 note the component 9 that is attached adjacent to the insulator block 12 and underneath the upper housing 5).

With respect to claim 4 and in accordance with claim 2, Asao teaches the smaller outer periphery of the insulation block is spaced inwardly of the outer periphery of the shroud (figure 1).

With respect to claim 5 and in accordance with claim 3, Asao teaches the smaller outer periphery of the insulation block is space inwardly of the outer periphery of the shroud (figure 1).

With respect to claim 6 and in accordance with claim 1, Asao teaches that the means to attach the upper housing includes the upper housing being attached to the insulator block (figure 1 note that the shroud 5 is attached to the insulator block 12).

With respect to claim 7 and in accordance to claim 1, Asao teaches that the means to attach the upper housing includes the upper housing being attached to the lower housing (column 6, lines 16 and 17).

With respect to claim 14, Asao teaches an electrical assembly comprising, a lower housing (column 4, lines 41-42), a circuit board (figure 1, element 4 and column 6 lines 15 and 16) mounted in the lower housing an insulator block (figure 1, element 12) mounted on and in contact with an upper surface of the circuit board (figure 1, element 12), holding a plurality of conductive terminals (figure 1, elements 13a), so that the terminals have contact heads extending above a top surface of the insulator block and connector tails extending below a bottom surface of the insulator block and attached to the circuit board, upper housing (figure 1, element 2a) having an upstanding shroud (figure 1, element 5), the upper housing being attached to the insulator block (Fig. 1) and shroud having an outer periphery (Fig. 1, element 5) and the insulator block has an outer periphery (Fig.1, element 12) that is smaller than the outer periphery of the shroud. Asao does not specifically teach a face seal above the insulator block so that the contact heads of the terminals extend through the face seal and the face seal is

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compressed between the top surface of the insulator block and a lower surface of the upper housing. Asao however does teach that the insulator block (Fig.1 element 12) is made of epoxy resin (column 5, lines 10-13) which is both an insulator and a sealant material (Donley US Patent 4268713, column 1 lines 34-38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to separate the insulator block, taught by Asao, into two pieces where the top piece would act as a face seal because doing so would make the face seal easily replaceable without the need change the entire insulator block.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 8-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipate by Asao.

With respect to claim 8, Asao teaches an electrical assembly comprising a lower housing (column 4, lines 41-42), a circuit board (figure 1, element 4 and column 6 lines 15 and 16) mounted in the lower housing an insulator block (figure 1, element 12) mounted on and in contact with an upper surface of the circuit board (figure 1, element

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12), holding a plurality of conductive terminals (figure 1, elements 13a), so that the terminals have contact heads extending above a top surface of the insulator block and connector tails extending below a bottom surface of the insulator block and attached to the circuit board and an upper housing (Fig.1, element 2a) having an upstanding shroud (Fig.1, element 5), and means to attach the upper housing so that the contact heads of the terminals are disposed within the shroud (Fig.1 element 13a and 5), and the shroud having an outer periphery (Fig.1 element 5) and the insulator block having an outer periphery (Fig.1 element 12) that is smaller than the outer periphery of the shroud.

With respect to claim 9 and in accordance with claim 8, Asao teaches that the smaller outer periphery of the insulator block provides a space beneath the upper housing for attaching electrical and/or electronic components to the circuit board adjacent the insulator block (figure 1 note that component 9 is attached adjacent the insulator block).

With respect to claim 10 and in accordance with claim 8, Asao teaches the smaller outer periphery of the insulation block is space inwardly of the outer periphery of the shroud (figure 1).

With respect to claim 11 and in accordance with claim 9, Asao teaches the smaller outer periphery of the insulation block is space inwardly of the outer periphery of the shroud (figure 1).

With respect to claim 12 and in accordance with claim 8, Asao teaches that the means to attach the upper housing includes the upper housing being attached to the insulator block (figure 1).

With respect to claim 13 and in accordance to claim 8, Asao teaches that the means to attach the upper housing includes the upper housing being attached to the lower housing (column 6, lines 16 and 17).

Response to Amendment

Arguments are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ivan H. Carpio whose telephone number is 571-272-8396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 6:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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